Duties of the Superintendent, Madras Record office.

* 556 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state what were the duties of the Superintendent of the Madras Record office during the tenure of Mr. Dodwell and what are the duties of the present Superintendent or the ministerial head of the Record office?

A.—During the time of Mr. Dodwell the duties of the Superintendent were such as Mr. Dodwell assigned to him. The duties of the Senior Assistant are now such as the present Curator assigns to him.

Civil Justice

Action taken by Government on the report of the Special Committee regarding the amendment of the Civil Procedure Code.

* 557 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the proposal made by the Special Committee on the amendment of the Civil Procedure Code contained in paragraph 12 of the Committee's report, dated 31st August 1907, regarding the annual publication of a Manual of Practice has been acted upon by Government or by the High Court, if not, why not;

(b) whether complaints have been made that for want of such a Manual, great difficulty is being experienced by the Civil Courts and the Bar of the province; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any and if so, what steps in the matter or to request the High Court to take such steps themselves?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative. It has not been thought necessary.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Government have taken steps to supply civil courts with such publications as are considered necessary for their guidance.

Criminal Justice

Alleged attack on the depressed classes by the caste Hindus at Angambakkam.

* 558 Q.—Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it was a fact that on or about the 12th August 1928 a mob of caste Hindus attacked the depressed class people (Adi-Dravidas) in Angambakkam cheri, Conjeeveram taluk, Chingleput district, and in defence one of the cheri men shot some of the caste Hindus;

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative the number of men that were shot dead and the number injured;

(c) whether it was a fact that the cheri men had sent a telegraphic or other message to the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and the Tahsildar informing them of the impending danger when they saw the castemen were preparing for an attack on the cheri people;

(*d*) if the answer be in the affirmative, the date, time and the persons by whom the telegrams or messages were first received, whether by clerks or officers themselves;

(*e*) the date and time the officers first reached the place to investigate; and

(*f*) what steps had been taken to prevent such an occurrence or protect the cheri people?

A.—(*a*) to (*f*) Criminal cases arising out of the incident are still before the Court. The Government can make no pronouncement till these have been disposed of.

Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—"With reference to clause (*c*) of the question, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state if telegraphic or other message was received by the District Magistrate before the incident?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The answer to all the clauses of the question is that the whole matter is now before Courts of Justice. As those cases are pending, I cannot go into detail in this Council."

Forests

Committee to enquire into the grievances of ryots in forest areas.

*559 Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken on the resolution passed in this Council on 6th September 1928 to appoint a committee of the Members of this Council to enquire into the grievances and hardships of the ryots in the forest areas of the province in regard to the administration of the Forest Department?

A.—The matter is under consideration of Government.

Panchayat Courts

Alleged prohibition of legal practitioners from appearing before village courts.

*560 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether complaints have been made to Government that section 24 of the Madras Village Courts Act prohibiting legal practitioners qualified or unqualified, from appearing or acting for clients in suits or proceedings before the village courts is causing great hardship and inconvenience to the litigant public; and

(*b*) whether the Government would consider the desirability of amending the Act so as to make provision for practitioners capable of acting as agents to appear and act for clients?

A.—(*a*) No.
(*b*) No.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu:—"May I know if the Government are aware that it is particularly necessary that persons should have some legal knowledge to attend to the work of the Panchayat Courts?"